

HALL SLEUTH DEFIES ARREST THREAT, TAKES STAND FOR DEFENSE AT TRIAL

Simpson Orders Di Martini Taken Into Custody

By JACK MILEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Nov. 26.—Craving arrest, Felix Di Martini appeared today in the county court house here, prepared to testify in behalf of Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall and her brothers, Henry and Willie.

The voluntary presence of the private detective, who successfully combed the prosecution's efforts to extradite him from New York, startled Special Prosecutor Simpson as much as it did the spectators.

Recovering from his surprise, Simpson demanded that Di Martini, engaged by Mrs. Hall immediately after the murder of her husband, the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills, be locked up on the warrant issued following his indictment as an accessory after the fact.

In producing the man whose name has filtered through the mass of testimony already adduced, defense counsel once more threw the prosecution off balance. Not a handful of people in the courtroom knew Di Martini was in their midst until the clerk called his name and he marched forward toward the stand. As soon as he had been sworn in Justice Parker announced the luncheon recess.

Fails to Shake Experts

The unexpected development followed Simpson's failure to shake the three defense fingerprint witnesses in their statements that the mark on the calling card introduced into evidence had not been made by Willie Stevens.

Adjourned from Wednesday, the cross-examination at the hands of Simpson proved to jury and spectators a tiresome and technical proceeding. The special prosecutor, during the quiz, had the advice of former Police Inspector Joseph A. Faurot of New York, who occupied a seat at the counsel table.

A report that Mrs. Hall might take the stand late this afternoon brought all of Somerville to the court house. The possibility of this depends solely upon the length of time consumed by Simpson in his cross-examination of other witnesses.

As soon as court opened Justice Parker ruled that Henry Carpender's testimony concerning Mrs. Jane Gibson's story be stricken out. However, Senator Clarence Case of defense counsel recalled him to



Mary Demarest H. L. Dickman

the stand and interrogated him as well as possible under the limitations set by the court.

Further witnesses were produced to break down the "pig woman's" claims, as well as those of Elijah Soper, another state witness, who said he had seen an auto containing two men and a woman in De Russeys Lane on the murder night. The man driving the ma-



MRS. FRANCES HALL

chine containing Soper declared no such car was visible.

Tells of Bribe Offer

A neighbor told of how Mrs. Gibson had offered him \$100 to testify he had been in the lane on that fatal September 14, 1922, and that he had seen two men and a woman in an auto there. Under cross-examination, the witness admitted writing three letters to Mrs. Hall, but denied this had been done to obtain money.

Justice Parker ruled there was no evidence in this trial that Carpender was at the murder scene, and that, therefore, he had no reason to deny his presence there.

The fact that Mrs. Gibson named Carpender at the preliminary hearing and not at this trial might impeach the "pig woman's" story, the court said, but did not permit Carpender to deny her testimony of the preliminary hearing.

Case called Carpender, however, to clear the broker as best he could. The witness denied he had re-



Timothy Pfeiffer E. H. Schwartz

under the court limitations.

Q. Did you on September 14 or September 15 communicate with either Mrs. Hall, Henry or Willie Stevens? A. No sir.

Carpender then testified that he was at his business in New York on the Saturday the bodies were found and arrived back in New Brunswick at 1.20 in the afternoon, moved papers from the Hall home on either Saturday or Sunday, as state witnesses had testified earlier. A New York newspaper woman had sworn that she saw Carpender removing documents from his cousin's home on Sunday morning.

He was with his wife on an automobile trip to Spring Lake at that time, the witness testified, and did not return to New Brunswick until evening.

Brother in New Brunswick

Senator Simpson, on cross-examination, asked Carpender if he had any brothers living in New Brunswick on that Sunday. The witness said there was one, William, younger than he.

Q. What kind of a day was it?

A. Very warm.

The prosecutor asked the question about the weather because he has a witness who will say she saw smoke coming from the Hall chimney that day.

Carpender then denied for Simpson any connection with the removal of Hall letters.

Q. Did you ever meet a state trooper named Diekman after the

1922 grand jury adjourned, in Mr. Beekman's office, and have some conversation about a check or check book? A. No, I never met Diekman, nor was I ever in Mr. Beekman's office.

Simpson then dropped the witness.

Ex-State Trooper Henry L. Diekman had testified that Prosecutor Beekman, now dead, had given him \$2,500 some time after the murders to quit his investigation of the case and leave the state.

Diekman on the stand did not link Carpender with the bribe, but in an affidavit he had given to Simpson earlier swore that the stock broker had offered him \$2,500 in Beekman's office.

Said He Produced Check Book

In his affidavit the ex-state trooper said that Carpender had produced a check book as he offered the bribe. Diekman said he refused the check and that then Carpender left the office.

When the trooper received money later in Beekman's home, Carpender was not present.

As Carpender left the stand,



Joseph A. Faurot Mrs. H. Carpender

Simpson began his cross-examination of the defense fingerprint experts.

The cross-examination of the three fingerprint experts proved extremely technical.

James Herbert Taylor, chief of the navy's identification bureau



HENRY CARPENTER

at Washington, said he had never been able to take a print from a card after two days, and Sergeant Fred Sandberg, Washington police expert, admitted he did not know the ingredients of the preparations used for developing.

Gerhardt Kuhne denied he had made any overtures to the prosecution about his appearing as a state's witness. He testified that in the 1922 investigation, William Fitzpatrick had shown him a fingerprint on a piece of paper which he said had been uncovered during the probe.

The missing fingerprint was a new development in the case.

Henry A. Langbein, the man who drove Elijah Soper from Somerville to New Brunswick on the murder night, was called.

Soper had testified for the state that he had noticed an automobile about midnight of September 14, 1922, at De Russeys Lane and Easton Avenue. In the car were two men and a woman in a light

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Fear Now Strong That Mrs. Gibson Can't Survive

The condition of Mrs. Jane Gibson, star witness of Alexander Simpson in the Hall-Mills trial, remained unchanged early today, physicians at the Jersey City Hospital reported.

Yesterday Mrs. Gibson improved slightly. However, according to officials at the hospital, she is in too critical a condition to survive. Her improvement, therefore, was not regarded as a very hopeful sign, as her various ailments have made too much of an inroad upon her health.



She is on a soft diet, which includes vegetables, eggnog and puddings, Jersey City Hospital officials stated.

Decks Awash, Ship Fights Raging Sea

The liner American Merchant, of the American Merchant Lines, came into port from London today three days late after fighting continuous storms all the way across the Atlantic, according to Capt. Ernest Mitchell. He declared that for 48 hours after leaving London the ship wallowed under seas which threw a three-foot wash onto the decks, with a 120-mile wind to whip them.

The vessel came through unscathed. Passengers remained below decks for the first 48 hours. The American Merchant carried 4,000 tons cargo.

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